

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 EUR-12 /058 W  
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P R 030227Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3430

INFO CSAF WASHDC

DOD/ISA WASHDC

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 3805

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SN, US

SUBJ: USAF ASSISTANCE TEAM FOR SINGAPORE AIR FORCE

REF: STATE 206404

1. ON SEPTEMBER 1 DAO OFFICERS INFORMED PERMSEC MINDEF (PANG) OF TEAM AVAILABILITY. PANG ACCEPTED OFFER WITH PLEASURE AND INDICATED TEAM MOST WELCOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FURTHER DISCUSSION REVEALED HOWEVER THAT GOS NOT REALLY PREPARED FOR TEAM UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 1975.
2. DISCUSSION WITH PANG CONFINED SOLELY TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR TEAM VISIT AND COMPLETELY AVOIDED ANY DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE REFTEL, WITH EXCEPTION THAT UNLIKELIHOOD OF "SECONDMENT" REITERATED. MR. PANG IS WELL AWARE THAT SECONDMENT IS NOT POSSIBLE BUT BELIEVES SOME OTHER ARRANGEMENTS, SUCH AS USAF ADVISORS WOULD SATISFY THEIR NEEDS. REGARDLESS OF THE FINAL ARRANGEMENT, THE PERMSEC STATED THE PRIORITY OBJECT IS FOR THE RSAF TO OBTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND THEIR MOST PRESSING NEEDS WERE IN THE AIR OPERATIONS AND TRAINING AREAS.
3. FOLLOWING GUIDELINES FOR TEAM VISIT ARRANGED WITH PANG:
  - A. TIME FRAME: ARRIVE FIRST HALF OF OCTOBER, PLAN ONE WORKING WEEK VISIT WITH POSSIBILITY OF EXTENSION TO SECOND WEEK.

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B. COMPOSITION: TWO TO FOUR USAF OFFICERS PRIMARILY ORIENTED

TOWARD STAFF ORGANIZATION, OPERATIONS, TRAINING. SENIOR MEMBER COL (06). MR. PANG STRONGLY STRESSED HIS DESIRE FOR THE TEAM LEADER OR THE RANKING OFFICER OF ANY FOLLOW-ON ARRANGEMENT SHOULD NOT BE ABOVE COLONEL. THE RANK STRUCTURE WITHIN SAF IS SUCH THAT A COLONEL IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL STAFF, WHICH IS ROUGHLY COMPARABLE TO THE U.S. CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS, AND THE RSN AND RSAF ARE COMMANDED BY COL:LT. COLONEL. EMBASSY AGREES WITH SENIOR MEMBER BEING COLONEL.

C. TEAM CONCEPT: GOS MINDEF REQUIRES MONTH OF SEPTEMBER TO PUT TOGETHER ITS OWN ORGANIZATION TO WORK WITH U.S. TEAM. GOS IS AWARE THAT FOR U.S. EFFORT TO BEAR FRUIT GOS MUST IDENTIFY SAF OFFICERS WHO WILL BE TRAINED/ADVISED TO ULTIMATELY FILL COMMAND/STAFF BILLETS. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO PANG THAT IDENTIFICATION OF THESE PERSONNEL TO WORK WITH U.S. TEAM IMPORTANT TO EFFECTIVE SURVEY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE CAPABILITY.

4. IN WASHINGTON BRIEFINGS AND PREPARATION FOR U.S. TEAM, EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWING COMMENTS CONCERNING SUBSTANTIVE ALTERNATIVES REFTEL: WHILE POSSIBLE TO SUPPLEMENT MAJOR ADVISORY EFFORT, NEITHER THE OPTIONS OF A COMMERCIAL CONTRACT OR RETIRED RESERVE OFFICERS SEEM TO FIT GOS NEEDS. THE RSAF REQUIREMENT IS FOR ACCELERATED TRAINING AND PREPARATION OF LOCAL SAF OFFICERS (PERHAPS TAKEN FROM INFANTRY RANKS) TO ASSUME SENIOR STAFF AND COMMAND POSITIONS. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH RETIRED OFFICERS HAS CONVINCED GOS THAT THIS OPTION NOT DESIRABLE. FURTHER, GOS FEELS THAT DUE TO QUALITY AND OUTLOOK OF SECONDED U.K. OFFICERS THEY OCCUPY A SINECURE AND MAKE LITTLE EFFORT TO TRAIN REPLACEMENTS. GOS HAS THUS TURNED TO U.S. FOR ADVISORY ASSISTANCE (UNFORTUNATELY LABELED SECONDMENT IN THE INITIAL REQUEST). THE RSAF NEEDS FOR ADVISORY ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING AT SENIOR STAFF LEVEL CAN NOT BE MET BY CIVILIAN CONTRACT OR RETIREES, ALTHOUGH THESE PEOPLE COULD SUPPLEMENT EFFORT IN LOWER AND TRAINING LEVELS. USE OF CONUS TRAINING IN CONJUNCTION WITH ADVICE/ASSISTANCE IS OBVIOUSLY REQUIRED AND DETERMINATION OF THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONUS TRAINING SHOULD BE A PRIME OBJECTIVE OF THE USAF TEAM.

5. EMBASSY HAS ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVE TO CONSIDER IN BEING RESPONSIVE TO GOS REQUEST. THAT IS TO CONSIDER ATTACHING A SMALL GROUP OF OFFICERS TO PRESENT DAO SINGAPORE TO SERVE AS  
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SENIOR ADVISORS TO RSAF. AMBASSADOR IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER SUCH ATTACHMENT. ADDITION OF ADVISORY PERSONNEL TO DAO OFFICE WOULD SERVE TO MAINTAIN THE EXCELLENT ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS AND RAPPORT ALREADY ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE DAO, WOULD BE MOST RESPONSIVE TO GOS NEED AND REQUESTS WHILE AVOIDING ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY ADDITIONAL DOD UNITS IN SINGAPORE, AND WOULD SERVE TO KEEP THIS EFFORT FIRMLY UNDER CONTROL OF THE CHIEF OF MISSION. AS WE ENVISION THIS OPTION, A SMALL ADVISORY GROUP (2-4 OFFICERS)

ATTACHED TO DAO WOULD COORDINATE TOTAL RSAF ASSISTANCE EFFORT AND WORK MOST CLOSELY WITH SENIOR RSAF PERSONNEL. ANY ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE, IN LOWER STAFF LEVEL AND IN FLIGHT TRAINING COULD BE FILLED BY CONTRACT EX-U.S. OFFICERS. A CONCURRENT CONUS TRAINING EFFORT WOULD COMPLETE THE TRAINING. THE ADVISORY OFFICERS ATTACHED TO DAO COULD WELL BE PROVIDED UNDER AN MTT CONCEPT WITH TOUR LENGTH LIMITED TO SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR. THE ENTIRE PROGRAM EFFORT WOULD HAVE A 2-3 YEAR TERMINAL DATE.

6. NO DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN WITH UK OFFICIALS OR YET WITH UK OFFICERS NOW SECONDED TO RSAF. DAO OFFICERS HAVE INFORMED PANG THAT EXPLANATION OF IMPENDING TEAM VISIT TO UK OFFICERS IS A GOS RESPONSIBILITY WHICH WE EXPECT TO BE DISCHARGED PRIOR TO TEAM ARRIVAL. IN INTERIM WE SHOULD AVOID ANY DISCUSSION OF MATTER WITH UK. OUR RELATIONS WITH SECONDED BRITS HAS BEEN EXCELLENT TO DATE.

7. RECOMMEND DOD OR CSAF (ACTIVITY SPONSORING TEAM) PROVIDE DAO SINGAPORE TEAM COMPOSITION, TRAVEL PLANS ETC. FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. DAO SINGAPORE WILL BE HOST/LIAISON.  
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## Message Attributes

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